

Book of Revelation, part 39

I. The church of Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22).

1. Laodicea means *rights of the people*, or the *people are right*.
2. Democracy ruling doctrine—theology gone awry.
3. Prophetic component predicts most of Christendom today.
4. *Amen, faithful, true witness, and Creator*—all in sharp contrast to the church's character (v. 14).
5. Their works are lukewarm: tepid, nondefining (vv. 15-16).
6. Unsaved group: vomit out of mouth, wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked—all descriptions of unsaved.

II. Laodicea equivocates their material wealth as reflecting spiritual blessings (v. 17).

1. The prosperity gospel (Duet. 7:12; Lev. 26:4-5; Ps. 115:14-15; Prov. 10:22; Lu. 6:38; Jam. 4:2; 3 Jn. 2).
2. Misapplication of the promises given to Israel.

III. Christ's sardonic advice: 'Do that which is impossible!'

1. He mocks them by instructing them to buy "redeem, *agorazo*:
 - 1) Gold refined by fire, in reference to their works (cf. 1 Cor. 3:12-15; 4:5).
 - 2) White garments (cf. Eph. 5:26-27; Rev. 19:8).
 - 3) Ointment to anoint their own eyes to 'see' spiritual truth (cf. 2 Cor. 4:4; 1 Jn. 2:20, 27). They are blind
2. If He should happen to be fond of them ('love' would be the expected term were they believers):
 - 1) He would rebuke them, rather than mock.
 - 2) He would child train them.
 - 3) However, He strongly suggests that they be zealous and repent, change their mind regarding material gain.